

Message Text

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41

ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 CEQ-02 COA-02

COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04 IO-14 NSF-04 SCI-06 FEAE-00

ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 OMB-01

CIEP-03 CEA-02 TRSE-00 DRC-01 OIC-04 /244 W

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P 041758Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3558

UNCLAS LONDON 11316

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJ: PROPOSED INTERIM LEGISLATION ON DEEP SEABED MINING
AND 200-MILE FISHERIES ZONE

REF: (A) CARACAS 8544; (B) STATE 193106

1. WE ASSUME THAT (A) US LOS DELEGATION HAS GOOD IDEA
OF UK VIEWS ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION AND (B) THAT UK OFFICIALS
WELL AWARE OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION AND ITS CONTENT.
2. OUR ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBLE UK REACTION TO FISHERIES
BILL BASED ON FACT THAT UK FISHING INDUSTRY GROUPS SINCE
EARLY 1974 HAVE BEEN PUTTING PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT
PRINCIPLE OF 200 MILES FISHERIES ZONE AROUND UK AS POSITION OF
UK LOS DELEGATION. SHOULD US TAKE UNILATERAL ACTION ON THIS,
PARTICULARLY IF THIS LEADS TO SIMILAR ACTION BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS,
IT MIGHT BE EXPECTED THAT PRESSURE ON UK BY FISHERIES INTERESTS
TO FOLLOW WITH SIMILAR UNILATERAL MEASURES WOULD INCREASE.

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3. IN RESPECT TO DEEP SEABED MINING LEGISLATION, WE NOT AWARE

OF ANY TENDENCY IN UK GOVERNMENT TO ACT UNILATERALLY ON THIS
ISSUE AND DOUBT THAT UNILATERAL US ACTION WOULD PRODUCE ANY
EARLY MOVEMENT IN THIS DIRECTION. UK UNDER-SEA MINING INTERESTS
AND CAPABILITY APPEAR TO US TO BE FULLY OCCUPIED WITH NORTH
SEA OIL RECOVERY AT THIS TIME AND FOR SEVERAL YEARS TO COME.

4. IN LOS CONTEXT, WE WOULD EXPECT THAT SHOULD UK BE MOVED
TO TAKE UNILATERAL ACTION ON EXTENDING FISHERIES AREA OR,
MORE UNLIKELY, ANY ACTION ON DEEP SEABED MINING, IN KEEPING
WITH LONG UK INTERESTS AS MAJOR MARITIME STATE ACTIONS WOULD
NOT REPEAT NOT INCLUDE RESTRICTIONS TO NAVIGATION OR FREE PASSAGE
THROUGH 200 MILE ZONE.
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